

REMARKS

PRIOR CLAIM OBJECTIONS & REJECTIONS

The Applicant notes that the Examiner has withdrawn all objections and rejections in prior office actions.

35 USC §102

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (JP 06025839, as cited in the IDS).

The Applicant disagrees, especially in view of the amendments presented herein, which are supported by at least Example 1 of the current application.

Amended claim 1 recites:

“A sputtering target, comprising:

a target surface component comprising a target material;

a core backing component having a coupling surface and a back surface, wherein the coupling surface is coupled to the target surface component; and

at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the back surface of the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective surface area of the core backing component, [[and]] wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid, and wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design.”

Amended claim 12 recites:

“A sputtering target, comprising:

a target surface component comprising a target material;

a core backing component having a coupling surface and a back surface, wherein the coupling surface is coupled to the target surface component; and

at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the back surface of the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature comprises a subtractive feature, an additive feature or a combination thereof, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective surface area of the core backing component, [[and]] wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid, and wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design.”

Amended claims 22-23 recite:

“22. A method of forming a sputtering target, comprising:

providing a target surface component comprising a surface material;

providing a core backing component comprising a backing material and having a coupling surface and a back surface;

providing at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the back surface of the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective surface area of the core backing component, and wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid, and wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design; and

coupling the surface target component to the coupling surface of the core backing component.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a sputtering target, comprising:

providing a target surface component comprising a surface material;

providing a core backing component comprising a backing material and having a coupling surface and a back surface;

providing at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the coupling surface of the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective surface area of the core backing component, and wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid, and wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design; and

coupling the surface target component to the coupling surface of the core backing component.”

All of these independent claims contain the provision wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design. The benefits of the center cooling design are clearly shown in Example 1 and the related Figures, as compared to a conventional non-center-cooled design; and therefore, this design choice is not merely one of choice, but instead is one of novel functionality. The Sato reference does not include this design feature, and therefore, this reference is not relevant for this case as it stands now. In addition, Sato does not anticipate the above-referenced independent claims that recite the present subject matter. “Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration.” *W. L. Gore & Assocs. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (citing *Soundsciber Corp. v. United States*, 360 F.2d 954, 148 USPQ 298, 301 (Ct. Cl.), *adopted*, 149 USPQ 640 (Ct. Cl. 1966)) Further, the prior art reference must disclose each element of the claimed invention “arranged as in the claim”. *Lindermann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984)(citing *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983)). Sato does not teach or contain the provision that the core backing component has a center cooling design. Based on this argument, along with others such as that discussed above, Sato does not anticipate claims 1, 12, 22, 23 or 24 of the present application because Sato is

lacking and/or missing at least one specific feature or structural recitation found in the present application, and in claims 1, 12, 22 or 23. Claim 1, 12, 22 or 23 are therefore allowable as not being anticipated by Sato. Further, Sato does not anticipate claims 2-11, 13-21 of the present application by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 12, 22 or 23.

35 USC §103

Claims 24-34 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Demaray.

Claims 35-45 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Mishima.

The Applicant disagrees, especially in view of the amendments presented herein.

Amended claim 24 recites:

“A sputtering target, comprising:

an integrated target surface component and core backing component, wherein the surface component and the backing component comprise the same target material; and

at least one surface area feature that is on or integrated into the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective component of the core backing component, [[and]] wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid, and wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design.”

Amended claim 35 recites:

“A sputtering target, comprising:

an integrated target surface component and core backing component, wherein the sputtering target comprises a target material gradient; and

at least one surface area feature that is located on or integrated into the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective component of the core backing component, [[and]] wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid, and wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design."

All of these independent claims contain the provision wherein the core backing component comprises a center cooling design. The benefits of the center cooling design are clearly shown in Example 1 and the related Figures, as compared to a conventional non-center-cooled design. The Sato reference does not include this design feature, and therefore, this reference is not relevant for this case as it stands now.

The Demaray reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Sato reference, because the Demaray reference teaches a cooling cover plate that fits on to the back of the target assembly that forms closed channels of cooling fluid. In this particular reference, there is no surface area feature that is on or integrated into the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective component of the core backing component, and there is no embodiment where all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid or where the core backing component comprises a center cooling design.

The Mishima reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Sato reference, because it also does not teach, disclose or suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid or that the core backing component comprises a center cooling design.

Therefore, claims 24 and 35 are allowable as patentable over Sato, Demaray, and Mishima – alone or in combination. In addition, claims 25-34 and 36-45 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claims 24 and 35, respectively.

REQUEST FOR TELECONFERENCE

The Applicant through the undersigned Attorney of Record respectfully requests an urgent interview, if a notice of allowance is not warranted based on this Response. Dr. Thompson can be reached at 949-224-6282 on Mondays-Fridays from 9AM-4PM PST.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE


Claims 1-45 are pending in this application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the claims in light of the arguments presented and allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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